

Go After 1411

Chapter 1411

“She knows about Scarlett. Do you think she’s the one who did it?” Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Xanthus. He thought for a moment before saying, “I’ll get someone to investigate.”

“You’ll get someone to investigate?” Raeleigh looked at him, slightly confused.

“Hey, do not underestimate my capabilities.”

Xanthus let go of Raeleigh before heading outside to make a call to a private investigator.

After Xanthus was done, only then did Raeleigh call Santiago and told him about Stella’s visit. At this time, Santiago was sitting on the couch. When he heard Raeleigh’s words, he briefly glanced at Jepherson.

Then, he put his phone on loud speaker.

“Stella came to me just now. She asked me to leave Jepherson and if I don’t, those people around me are going to end up like Scarlett.”

“Santiago, I know that Jepherson doesn’t believe that Stella is a bad person. That’s why I called you.”

“Raeleigh, you’re such a smart girl,” Santiago said nonchalantly. Raeleigh was silent for a while. “You don’t sound sincere at all.”

Santiago snickered.

Then, Santiago looked over at Jepherson, who was seated beside him.

As Raeleigh did not know that she was on speaker, she continued, “Stella said that the first person she’s going to lay her hands on is my brother.”

“Wow! She has guts!” Santiago said and smiled, as his gaze was no longer at Jepherson.

Raeleigh said, “I want to know if there is any way to protect my brother.”

“Don’t worry, you can leave it to me. Wait for me at home.”

Santiago briefly glanced over at Jepherson before hanging up the phone.

After that, Santiago stood up and said to Jepherson, “It seems like you’re adamant that Stella’s a good person.”

Jepherson returned a look at Santiago but did not speak. Santiago quickly put on his coat before heading out the door.

Jepherson got up and walked to the door, watching as Santiago drove away.

“Follow Mr. Santiago. I want you to protect him.”

Jepherson said with his hands clasped behind his back. Then, one of his men asked, “What about Xanthus and Miss Raeleigh?”

Jepherson hesitated for a moment, "Jacky is not a pushover. I have faith in him."

"Yes, Mr. Jepherson."

Then, he disappeared instantly. Jepherson thought for a moment before reaching out for his phone to dial a number. It was not long before the call was connected. "Stella?"

"..."

"Where are you? I'll come and pick you up."

...

Stella was very pleased with herself. In fact, she had been living in a hotel ever since Paige moved out of the Harvey Group Manor.

When the car pulled up at the hotel, Jepherson took a quick glance out of the window while he waited for his driver to open the door for him. Jepherson got out of the car and paused for a moment before walking towards the entrance of the hotel.

As soon as he walked into the hotel, he was greeted by one of Stella's servants.

"Mr. Harvey, please come with me. Miss Stella is waiting for you upstairs."

Jepherson followed him to the top floor, where the presidential suite was located.

He was invited into the room as soon as he arrived at the highest floor.

After closing the door, Jepherson turned around and took a quick look around the room.

Jepherson immediately stopped when he saw a figure sitting by the floor to ceiling windows.

Stella sat in a wheelchair and was wearing a white cloak. From his point of view, it looked that the cloak was slightly heavier than Stella, judging by her skinny frame.

Stella sat there in a daze while hugging herself. When she heard footsteps behind her, she quickly turned around and realised that Jepherson had arrived.

"Jepherson."

"Why aren't you wearing more layers?"

Jepherson grabbed a coat and draped it around Stella's shoulders. Stella glanced at the coat before looking up at Jepherson. "Raeleigh must have told you what happened, that's why you're here."

Stella looked a little displeased and her face was also slightly pale.

Jepherson took a seat on the chair right next to her, so that he was at eye level with her. "Stella, we've been close ever since we were young. I have never mentioned it to anyone but I remember that you once got injured protecting me.

Although I've never told anyone, it doesn't mean that I've forgotten about it."

Stella forced a smile. "I knew you would come and find me after I threatened Raeleigh, but then again, if I didn't, you wouldn't be here, would you?"

Stella looked away. "Actually, I once had fantasies about you. I would fantasize that one day, you will be able to be mine and that you'll love me unconditionally.

However, one day, I came to the realization that it was not possible."

Stella's tears flowed out of her eyes as she said, "Not only was it impossible, my legs are also broken."

"Everything was just a dream and I'm not destined to be with you. How can I face this reality? Tell me!"

Stella burst into tears as her entire body started trembling. Jepherson hugged Stella and said, "Stella, I'm sorry. Love is something I can't control. When I saw you again, I was very happy. It's like reuniting with my long lost sister.

You know, I've been really upset about not being able to find my sister.

Up until now.

I care a lot about you, Scarlettte and Deanna. I love all of you like my sister.

I'm sorry I can't give you much. I can only wish the best for you.

Deanna already has someone she likes. What about you?

Remember I told you that you should have a life that is yours?

I also said not to expect anything because expectations will lead to disappointments."

Stella pulled out of Jepherson's arms and pursed her lips. "Scarlettte's incident has nothing to do with me. I just used it to threaten Raeleigh. I told Raeleigh that if she does not leave you, then I will make sure that her brother ends up like Scarlettte."

"..."

Jepherson did not speak. Stella held his hand and said, "I am very scared. How am I suppose to spend my life alone?"

Stella bawled her eyes out again. With that, Jepherson had no choice but to hold her. He stroked her back and said. "I'm sure things will get better. You cannot give up now."

"But I don't want to leave you. If I go back, I'll die. Can you bear to watch me die?"

Jepherson hesitated for a moment. "No, you will not die."

"But I really don't feel well right now."

"Even so, you're not going to die."

"Jepherson, do you despise me? I don't mind being your concubine as long as you and Raeleigh both agree. I am willing to do anything just to be with you."

Stella came out of Jepherson's embrace to look at his cold face. She then pulled herself closer to him, ready to kiss him.

Jepherson looked down at Stella and managed to avoid her kiss in the nick of time.

"Stella, you can't do this. I'm with Raeleigh and we will not tolerate anyone who comes between us."

In a trice, Jepherson let go and sat to one side.

Stella's face turned even paler as she asked Jepherson, "Both of you can't tolerate me, or is it just Raeleigh?"

"Both of us."

"Then what about Santiago and Xanthus? Why do you allow them to hang around her? She lives with Xanthus and I'm sure you know Santiago likes her. Why can't I stick around then? Why?"

Stella bellowed. Jepherson stared at her and said nothing.

When Jepherson did not speak, Stella held the wheelchair tightly and tried to push herself up. However, she fell back down and started to pant and sweat.

Jepherson watched as Stella tried to stand up. He looked like he was losing his patience.

All of a sudden, Stella burst into tears. She covered her face in her hands and sat on the wheelchair, wailing.

Chapter 1412

At the door, Raeleigh waited for Santiago for about half an hour.

Upon arriving at her house, Santiago entered and told her that he was going to move into her house.

Raeleigh threw a glance at him as she sat down on the couch. She said, "This is your solution?"

"What else?" Santiago was amused.

Raeleigh pursed her lips. "Aren't you suppose to be spending the new years in A City?"

"Yes, I was, but I don't mind spending it here with you since my grandmother doesn't really want to see me."

Santiago said with a serious tone. Although Raeleigh was a little suspicious, she decided to give him the benefit of the doubt.

The problem was that even if she believed him, she could do nothing about it. Raeleigh watched as Santiago and Xanthus sat on the couch and discussed the issue at hand.

"I think it's best if you head home. Xanthus and I don't mind heading over to our parents' place a little earlier than planned since there's only 20 days till the new years."

Frankly, Raeleigh missed her parents very much. If it weren't for this incident, she would have already gone home.

“I’ll come with you.”

Raeleigh was stunned when she heard Santiago’s words.

“Wait, what for?” Raeleigh asked curiously when she finally came back to her senses. Santiago leaned back on the couch and said, “I don’t want to go home. There’s no one at home besides the servants. Where else can I go if I don’t follow you?”

What Santiago said made sense, but she found it strange that he’d rather spend the holiday with her family and not his own family.

“I’m going upstairs.”

Raeleigh did not agree, nor did she refute. After all, Santiago was very shameless.

After that, Raeleigh went upstairs into her room and gave Jepherson a call. The phone rang a few times but no one answered. Raeleigh was about to hang up when he answered.

“Hello?”

A woman’s voice came from the phone. Raeleigh was slightly stunned. She was sure that this voice belonged to Stella.

Raeleigh puckered her lips, feeling as if she had been stabbed in the chest. As fear clawed up her throat, she immediately hung up the phone.

Raeleigh lay down on the bed and pulled the quilt over her body. She was trembling all over.

Closing her eyes, she tried her best to get rid of the bad thoughts that clouded her mind.

Raeleigh knew that things were not what she thought, but that night, she did not sleep a wink. She had chills all over her body and a growing headache.

In the morning, Raeleigh heard someone knocking at the door. She wanted to answer, but she did not have the strength. Furthermore, her throat was dry so she couldn’t speak.

“Breakfast is ready!”

Santiago knocked on Raeleigh’s door but she did not answer. He immediately knew that something was wrong and opened the door.

He hurried over to Raeleigh when he saw that she looked a little sick. In a trice, he called Raeleigh’s brother. Xanthus quickly examined Raeleigh before deciding to give her a jab.

As Xanthus prepared the needle, Santiago said, “It’s good to have a brother who is a doctor. At least, we don’t have to go to the hospital.”

Xanthus was worried about Raeleigh and ignored Santiago.

It was not until Raeleigh was feeling slightly better that Xanthus felt relieved. He turned around and went downstairs to make her a light meal. After that, Santiago stayed in the room to take care of Raeleigh.

Santiago then decided to make a call to Jepherson to give him an update on Raeleigh's condition.

However, Raeleigh's phone suddenly rang just he took out his phone from his pocket.

Santiago walked over to pick up Raeleigh's phone and saw that Jepherson had sent her a bunch of pictures.

As Santiago was curious, he clicked on it to have a look. He was taken aback when he saw the pictures. To his surprise, they were pictures of him and Stella in bed.

Jepherson was clearly sleeping in the pictures.

Santiago quickly turned off Raeleigh's phone and shoved it into his pocket.

"Have you called Jepherson?" Xanthus entered the room with a bowl of porridge in his hands. Santiago turned around to look at Xanthus and said, "Not yet. I have to head out for a while."

"Alright."

Santiago got up and walked out the door. He headed straight for the Harvey Group.

When he saw no signs of the person he was looking for in the Harvey Group, he immediately walked out and gave Jacky a call. "Do you know where Jepherson is?"

"He's in the hotel nearby your house. He hasn't been out since yesterday. I'm not sure if something's happen to him."

"I can assure you that he's perfectly fine." Santiago hung up the phone and drove straight to the hotel.

Santiago stood at the entrance of the hotel for awhile before entering and walking towards the elevator.

He rode the elevator to the top floor where the presidential suite was located. As he approached the door, several men came up to him and said. "I'm sorry, sir. You're not allowed to enter. We've rented out the entire place."

"Are you going to let me in now?" Santiago took out a gun from his back pocket and pointed it at the man's forehead. "If you think that this is fake, let me shoot you in the head and we'll see whether this is fake, okay?"

"Just who exactly are you?" The man did not seem scared, only rather curious.

Santiago surveyed the surveillance cameras surrounding the area and said, "It doesn't matter who I am. Since I have the guts to come here, it proves that I'm not afraid of anything. Open the door right now, or else, I'm going to pull the trigger!"

They exchanged a look before stepping out of the way.

Santiago walked over to the door and shot the locked door open. Turning around, he saw that the people were scared to their wits. With a smile, he pushed open the door, and walked into the room.

At this time, Stella was sitting on the wheelchair, crying her hearts out.

On the other hand, Jepherson was sitting on the bed, completely dressed.

When Jepherson saw Santiago, he quickly got on his feet.

“Oh, you’re still alive?” Santiago asked. Jepherson glared at him. “Do you really want me dead so badly?”

“Of course, there’s the two of us in the Harvey family. If you die, then I will be the sole heir to our family’s property.”

“Nice try.”

Jepherson pulled a long face and strode out of the room. He briefly looked at those men standing outside before continuing on towards the elevator.

Santiago quietly followed him. He threw Raeleigh’s mobile phone to Jepherson as soon as they entered the elevator.

“Why don’t you take a look at what Stella sent? It’s good stuff. Raeleigh is having a high fever right now. She’s barely hanging on.”

As he spoke, Santiago leaned against the wall and took out a cigarette. He lit it up and took a puff.

Jepherson turned on Raeleigh’s phone and saw the pictures that Stella had sent. “Did Raeleigh see it?”

“No, she didn’t.”

“Then why is she sick?”

“I checked her phone. I found out that Raeleigh called you last night. Stella must have answered your phone and said something to her.”

Santiago took another drag on his cigarette. Soon, the elevator announced its arrival in the lobby. Santiago immediately exited and went out of the hotel.

Behind him, Jepherson turned off Raeleigh’s phone and quickly caught up to Santiago. He handed the phone to him and said, “Take care of it.”

Santiago got into his car and sped away. He was out of sight within seconds.

Jepherson returned to the car and his face darkened. “Get someone to close down this hotel.”

“The hotel belongs to the Doyle family.”

The driver said. Jepherson then shot a death glare at him through the rearview mirror. In a trice, the driver said, “Alright, I know what to do.”

Raeleigh woke up to find Jepherson sitting by her bedside. The moment she saw him, her head started to throb. Then, she said to him, “I have a headache. Why don’t you go home first?”

However, Jepherson took out his phone and handed it to Raeleigh.

Chapter 1413

Raeleigh handed back his phone and turned away from him, not wanting to see him.

Jepherson then said, "This is your one chance to see the pictures that Stella had sent to your phone. Your phone is currently with Santiago. I've already instructed him create a malware. By this evening, all the data in everyone else's phone will be erased, except for this phone."

Although Raeleigh was currently having headache which was accompanied by dizziness, but in the end, she caved in, turned around and took the phone from his hands.

Raeleigh unlocked the phone and went through the pictures. When she first saw the pictures, her head started to pound, but eventually the pain eased up. After all, Jepherson was fully dressed in the pictures and was fast asleep.

It was Stella who had her arms around him.

Raeleigh doubt that the photos would leak out. Furthermore, it was unlikely that Stella had asked someone to take the pictures for her.

Putting down the phone, Raeleigh felt disgust at the pit of her stomach.

She couldn't look at Jepherson. Even though it was not his fault, he should not have gone to look for Stella in the first place.

What were they doing together? Raeleigh doubt that Stella would have sent someone to kidnap him if he had refused to meet up with her.

"Is there anything you need to tell me?"

Raeleigh asked, but Jepherson only said, "No."

Raeleigh froze for a moment then bit her lips. The way he was acting proved that nothing really transpired between him and Stella. However, did he really have nothing else to say?

Raeleigh felt a flicker of irritation, but did not turn away from him; instead, she chose to give him her brand of silent treatment. The result was, she spent the entire day in bed, not eating anything.

"I think it's best if you leave. I will call you if there's anything."

Xanthus could not bear to watch his sister go an entire day without eating. However, judging by Raeleigh's actions, it seemed like she was not planning to get out of bed as long as Jepherson was still around.

"All right, then. Make sure you call me in case of anything."

However, Raeleigh made no move to get out of bed when she heard that Jepherson was leaving.

"He should have left long ago! I'm about to starve to death!" Raeleigh scolded inwardly.

It was only after Jepherson had left that Raeleigh finally sprung up from her bed. After seeing Jepherson off, Xanthus went up to Raeleigh's room and asked, "Aren't you hungry?"

"I am, but what can I do? He was here."

Raeleigh's mind was in a mess. She did not know how to feel about the situation.

“I’ve already made some food for you. Why don’t you head back to bed? I’ll bring it up for you.”

Xanthus turned around and went downstairs. Not long after, he came back with some food for Raeleigh. After emerging from the bathroom, Raeleigh sat across from Xanthus and began eating.

At first, Raeleigh did not speak, then she took the initiative to ask Xanthus, “What do you want to know?”

Xanthus chewed on his food. “What would you like to tell me?”

Their eyes searched each other’s faces for a while. Raeleigh thought for a moment before lowering her head.

“He went to meet with Stella yesterday. She somehow got hold of his phone and started taking pictures of them in bed together while he was sleeping.”

Raeleigh paused for a while, her appetite dampened.

“How can you say for sure that he did not cheat on you?”

Xanthus immediately rained on her parade. Raeleigh looked up at her brother and said, “I trust him. I know he will never cheat on me.”

“If you trust him, how come you have no appetite?”

“What has that got to do with it? I mean, he’s mine, but I found out that he’s with another woman. There is no smoke without fire. If he hadn’t sent mixed signals, Stella wouldn’t have had a chance.”

In fact, she felt like such a joke as she knew exactly what had happened. Before, it had never occurred to her how she understood him like the back of her hand.

Raeleigh stared silently at the food on the table. By then, Xanthus had already finished eating. He looked at his sister and said, “I’m sure you know what Stella’s ulterior motives are. It’s clear that she wanted to cause a rift between you and Jepherson, yet you let this bother you. Don’t you feel that the problem stems from you? You are contradicting yourself.”

“I do feel it.”

Raeleigh gave him a bitter look. She was really unhappy this time.

Stella was such a scheming woman.

Why did she want her to leave Jepherson?

There was no way in hell she was going to let Stella take her place.

Raeleigh was not a fool.

However, Raeleigh was sure that if anyone was in the same position as her, they would definitely be as upset as her. At the thought of Stella and Jepherson in bed together...

She started simmering with anger.

How could there be such a shameless woman in this world!

The more Raeleigh thought, the more the rage got to her head. She pushed aside her food and went back to bed.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea to go to sleep with anger. Don’t say that I did not remind you.”

Xanthus stood up, warning Raeleigh while collecting the dishes. Raeleigh did not say anything as fury twisted inside of her.

In fact, Jepherson could have chosen not to show her the pictures, but he deliberately took them out for her to see anyways. What did he mean?

Her anger was culminating at the thought. When Xanthus came back to the room, he found her clenching her quilt. As a result, Xanthus decided to give Raeleigh a shot.

Xanthus did not answer when Raeleigh’s questioned what was the injection for. Instead, he told her to take a good rest and curb her mind from overthinking.

A few minutes later, Raeleigh finally fell asleep.

Only then Xanthus breathed a sigh of relief.

Coming out from Raeleigh’s room, he went downstairs to find Jepherson still sitting in the living room. He said, “Since you knew it was a trap, why did you still walk into it? Not only that, you chose to let Raeleigh know. She may be an understanding person, yes, but that doesn’t mean that she would not be bothered by it.”

“I don’t want to have any misunderstanding between us. Even if she found out from someone else and misunderstands me, I would rather be the one to tell her.”

At this time, Jepherson hadn’t eaten anything yet.

Seeing Xanthus come down, Jepherson rose, walked towards the kitchen and started making himself something to eat.

Xanthus followed him into the kitchen. The two men were busy in the kitchen.

Xanthus was washing the dishes while Jepherson made some noodles for himself.

Xanthus then went back into the living room to watch TV. A couple minutes later, Jepherson emerged from the kitchen with his bowl of noodles and joined him. Just as Jepherson was about to eat, Santiago entered the house. He had no idea where his brother got the key from. Santiago seemed to be acting like as if this was his house, coming and going as he pleased.

Xanthus looked up at Santiago and felt a little helpless. He did not know what he had done in his past life that warranted such treatment from these brothers.

“Have you eaten?” Santiago asked Jepherson when he entered the door. Jepherson took a bite of his noodles and said, “I left a bowl for you.”

Santiago took off his coat and hung it up before heading into the kitchen. A few seconds later, he came out with a bowl of noodles.

Santiago took a seat right next to his brother and asked, "Where's your phone?"

Jepherson passed his phone to Santiago, after which he briefly fiddled with it and a few seconds later, the screen turned black.

Jepherson looked at Santiago, slightly shocked. "Why is my screen black?"

"Yours is the only one left. I have no choice."

Santiago fed the phone to the trash can without hesitation.

Xanthus was lost in thought and eventually broke into a smile. Sometimes, he found these two brothers quite interesting.

Chapter 1414

"How's the investigation on Seibert going? Did you find out who he's working for?" Jepherson slurped up the last of his noodles before bringing the bowl into the kitchen. Santiago followed him. The two brothers talked about this matter as they walked.

"I asked, but boy, he wouldn't breath a word! I did find a suspicious number in his phone, and when I called, Flynt was the one who answered."

"Since when did they start contacting each other?"

"Well, your guess is as good as mine. We're still investigating."

"Just put it aside for now. Raeleigh's in a bad mood and I'm planning to stay and take care of her. Zorion will be spending New Year's alone. Why don't you and Jacky crash at his place, give him a little pick-me-up?"

"What about us?"

"I will inform Mom and Dad. I'm planning to accompany Raeleigh to her parents'. I have something I need to ask them."

Santiago gave Jacky a call and was surprised to hear that he was actually standing outside of Raeleigh's house. So, Santiago went to open the door for him.

"I'm not here for you, I'm here for Raeleigh."

"What for?"

Santiago then turned around and head upstairs. Jacky quickly hung up his coat before following Santiago.

Santiago asked, "Why are you looking for my boo?"

Goosebumps crawled all over Jacky's body when he heard how Santiago referred to Raeleigh, but he did not say anything.

Santiago knocked twice on Raeleigh's door, but she did not answer. At this time, she was lying in bed with the quilt wrapped tightly around her body. When she heard someone opening the door, she turned to look at it. She froze for a while before she got out of bed.

Raeleigh had already changed into her pyjamas. It wasn't until she saw Jacky standing behind Santiago that she got out bed.

Otherwise, she would have stayed in bed.

"Are you here for Deanna?"

Raeleigh suddenly remembered the promise she'd made with Jacky.

Jacky entered the room and said, "I did not mean to disturb you. I wouldn't have come if I'd known you were sick."

"No worries. Give me a minute."

Raeleigh tried to rummage for her phone on the bedside table, but realised that it wasn't there anymore.

As she searched, she muttered to herself, "Where the hell is my phone?"

She suddenly recalled Jepherson's words. Only then she turned around and look at Santiago.

"Your phone? Oh, it's been infected with virus. I've already dumped it," Santiago said as he sat down on the bed and lay down.

Jacky asked, "Then what should we do?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "Do you have your phone with you?"

"Yes, I do."

Jacky took out his phone and passed it to Raeleigh. She opened it and typed in the number. She was once worried that she would either lose her phone or it would stop working. Who would have thought that her prophecy was right on the mark?

Fortunately, Raeleigh had memorised the number, or else she did not know what she would have done.

Raeleigh pRhysed that her memory did not fail her. She typed in the number and pressed dial.

"Hello?"

Deanna was very carefully when answering call these days.

Raeleigh breathed a sigh of relief when she heard Deanna's voice. "Deanna! It's me, Raeleigh. I have a bad news for you, I lost my phone and I am unable to retrieve my old number. I'm currently down with the flu, so I can't go out and get a new number either."

"This is Xanthus's number. From now on, I will contact you with this number. Do you understand?"

Deanna's eyes twitched. "Yes, I understand."

Raeleigh exhaled a long breath. She then looked at Jacky before asking Deanna, "Are you free to talk? I want to catch up. I'll most probably call you everyday since I'm stuck in bed. Scarlette's not here to accompany me. I'm bored out of my mind."

Deanna had put her phone on loudspeaker for her parents to listen into their conversation before answering the phone. Lottie knew that her daughter did it on purpose. She knew her intentions. As her mother, how could she not know?

"Keep the noise down. Up you go." Lottie could not stand it anymore and drove her daughter away.

Deanna hurriedly scuttled upstairs to her room.

Lottie leaned on Rhys's shoulders and sighed. As much as she loved her daughter, she knew that they were on borrowed time. Eventually Deanna would have to leave, and they would be left to cope with their empty nest syndrome.

As her parents, they wanted to give her the world, but unfortunately they could not provide her with the love from her spouse, who would be responsible for the rest of her life.

"Raeleigh, I'm back in my room."

Deanna was excited to have received this call. She had known that this phone number belonged to Jacky, but she kept her excitement in check.

Raeleigh handed back Jacky his phone, to which he said, "I owe you one."

Jacky walked out the room as he talked to Deanna. Raeleigh watched him leave before turning around to kick Santiago with her feet. "Rise and shine, you sod."

Santiago did not move. "I'm tired. Just for a few minutes."

"Get. Up."

Raeleigh nudged him again, but he made no move to stand up.

In the end, Raeleigh resorted to pulling him up from the bed. However, she was yanked into his arms instead.

Raeleigh turned pale with fright. Before she could get up, she heard someone enter the room.

Raeleigh and Santiago looked towards the door and saw Jepherson standing there with a cup of water in his hand. He was staring at the two of them, his gaze frosting over.

Raeleigh was on top of Santiago, who had his hands around her waist.

Raeleigh blushed furiously, a wave of uneasiness washed through her entire body.

Raeleigh swallowed a mouthful of saliva, not knowing what to do.

She felt as if she and Santiago had been caught red handed.

Raeleigh wanted to stand up but Santiago did not let her go.

Jepherson closed the door behind him and continued staring at them.

Raeleigh was startled by his voice when he suddenly spoke: "Are you going to let go of her?"

Jepherson's voice was as cold as if there were a blizzard in the room. Raeleigh felt fear trickling down her spine.

However, Santiago, calm as ever, eventually removed his hands from her waist.

Raeleigh immediately scooted to one side and away from Santiago. She was still blushing furiously at this point.

Santiago sat up and looked at Raeleigh. "Girl, you look like a human sauna."

After saying that, Santiago laughed out loud. Raeleigh was so angry that she gritted her teeth and dared not look at Jepherson.

"Mind you, a clear conscience fears no accusation. Why the guilt?" Santiago teased Raeleigh. When she glared back at him, only then he kept quiet and remained lying on the bed with the devil's own smirk on his face.

"You should get out." Raeleigh felt a flash of irritation.

Santiago neither moved nor spoke.

Her patience snapped, Raeleigh picked up the pillow and hit him. Santiago raised his arm to protect himself, but he did not strike back.

Raeleigh finally stopped when she was tired. She threw away the pillow and continued giving Santiago the if-looks-could-kill glare.

Raeleigh curled up on the bed with her arms around her legs. She felt angry and resentful, as though she was forced to partake in a cat and mouse game, with the brothers as the gargantuan apex predator of a feline.

Raeleigh pursed her lips and wore an unhappy look on her face.

Jepherson walked to the side and gave him his famous one-word orders. "Leave."

Only then did Santiago sit up from the bed and left. Jepherson put down the cup in his hand and closed the door. He sat beside Raeleigh. "Are you angry?"

At first, Jepherson intended to touch Raeleigh's face, but did not expect her to slap his hand away.

Jepherson paused and looked at Raeleigh. "You can take out your anger on me."

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. Furious, she raised her hand and thumped Jepherson.

However, her hands hurt. Jepherson hugged her in his arms and patted her back. "You know that Santiago is still a kid, right?"

"I'm sure if it were someone else, you would not have allowed it, right?" Raeleigh murmured into his chest.

Jepherson held Raeleigh tightly. "Yes, I will not tolerate it if it were someone else."

Chapter 1415

Raeleigh peeled herself from Jepherson's embrace. "What did you say?"

"What I meant was, I'm not catering to his whims, but tolerating him."

Raeleigh had a huge question mark on her face. Jepherson took off his shirt and slipped under the covers before pulling Raeleigh into his arms. He whispered in her ear, "We're brothers. We've had similar taste ever since we were young."

That's why I'm not surprised that he likes you as well.

He and I both love our parents, but that doesn't mean we can't share them.

He's my brother, an existence more important to me than my own life.

I don't mind if my parents love me less if that means they're going to shower Santiago more love.

At least they had still shown me enough love.

I've always been the most loved child ever since I was young because I was the oldest. Santiago was always neglected.

The least I can do now is to treat him well.

The way Santiago treats you is the same way he treats our parents. He isn't doing anything inappropriate. Earlier was just an accident, wasn't it?"

Jepherson asked Raeleigh. Raeleigh nodded, but looked at up him and said, "Yes, but I'm still worried that it would cause any misunderstandings."

"What's there to worry about? Let's say if he was your brother, would you still worry?"

Raeleigh did not say anything because his analogy did not hold water.

Jepherson then rested his head on Raeleigh's shoulder. He wrapped his arm around her before running his hands all over her body. The moment Raeleigh swatted his hands away, he wrapped his arms around her again. Then, he leaned down and kissed her.

"You're such a pervert!" Raeleigh said when she failed to push Jepherson away. She thought of making him upset and asking him to go downstairs. As a result, he took off his velvet sweater and used it to tie her hands together. Then, he got out of bed and locked the door. Raeleigh sputtered, "What... are you... doing?", but by way of answer, he took off his pants and slipped back under the covers before flipping her over and kissing her.

"Bringing heaven to you," he murmured.

Raeleigh was held down by Jepherson and struggled to break free. She had long forgotten that she was still mad at him.

By the time Raeleigh remembered that she was supposed to be mad at Jepherson, she looked over and realised that he had fallen asleep with his arms wrapped around her. The moment she moved, his arms would tighten instinctively around her.

Xanthus knocked on the door and asked Raeleigh to come have dinner. Raeleigh could only tell him that she was not hungry and that she wanted to sleep.

Xanthus glanced at the door and wondered why women were always the weaker kind in front of their partners.

Xanthus turned around and went downstairs to eat with the rest. Jepherson could not make it to the table, but there was Jacky to fill in.

Jacky and Santiago left after eating. It was only then, Xanthus was finally able to have peace.

Outside the door, Santiago and Jacky got into their respective cars. When they arrived at their destination, Jacky leaned against his car and watched as Santiago got out of the car while lighting a cigarette. They were staring at a group of people who were bashing Flynt up.

Flynt cradled his head as he lay on the ground while the group of people took turns to hit him.

“Are you sure someone’s going to come to his rescue?” Jacky asked. Santiago’s lips curled into a smile. “If no one shows up, then I guess he’s as good as dead.”

Jacky shook his head. He could not care less actually.

After a while, someone drove past and called the police. It did not take long for the police to show up and arrest the group of people.

Santiago returned to the car and glanced at Flynt before driving away.

“Are you alright?” The police got out the car and asked Flynt. The police knew that he was from the Cole family. It was just that they did not expect him to be beaten up this badly.

Flynt stumbled onto his feet and shook his head. “I’m fine. Don’t worry about me. I’m not planning to press charges.”

Flynt struggled to stay on his feet. There was blood coming out of his nose at this time. He gritted his teeth and hissed, “Santiago Harvey, I’m going to make sure you pay for this!”

Jacky returned to his car and followed Santiago to another place.

Jacky got off the car and asked Santiago, “Are you sure that Flynt is shady?”

“I know him better than his own mother. In the unlikely event that there is nothing wrong with him, I’ll bang my head against the wall.”

Jacky was speechless.

.....

“Are you sure you want to kill Santiago?”

In the dark room, the dark figure asked Flynt.

Flynt was injured, but he was still bandaged himself. “Yes, I’m sure. Be sure not to leave any mess behind. Make sure he die a slow f*cking death. I can no longer wait.”

The man thought for a moment. "I understand."

.....

Santiago and Jacky entered the place. Santiago started cracking his neck as they walked along the corridor.

Jacky turned around to take a look but did not spot anything unusual. He turned around and asked Santiago, "What's the matter?"

"Well, well, we have a visitor. The tiger is here."

"The what?"

Jacky stopped and turned around to see if there was anything following them. However, he still did not see anyone. Santiago walked in front until he reached the room that held Seibert. He called for someone to open the door.

Before entering, Santiago dismissed the two men who were guarding the cell.

Jacky followed Santiago into the room. The door was closed and the two of them walked inside. Not long after, they heard the sound of the door opening.

Both of them stopped at the same time.

Jacky turned around and saw a person dressed in black from head to toe enter the room.

"Who are you?"

Jacky asked. Santiago turned around to look at the man who was wearing the same outfit when he attacked him.

If there was one person Santiago would not forget, it was this guy.

"Ah, don't mind who I am. You'll both be dead soon."

From his coat pocket the man took out a spiral knife which Santiago was familiar with. The man had used the same knife to attack him last time. The man had not used his bare hands to physically injure him the last time, he had used the spiral knife.

Santiago fetched two batons from his back and handed one to Jacky. "I'll go first. Cover me."

"You sure you up for it?"

Jacky raised his eyes and asked. Santiago smiled back at him before walking up to the man. The man smirked, "You are my opponent?"

Santiago said nothing as he walked up to the man. The man took a step back before throwing the spiral knife in his hand. Santiago managed to dodge it and continued walking towards him. There was only a handful of people in this world who could use the spiral knife. This strangest feature of this knife was its boomerang-like fashion of being able to return to the thrower after being thrown.

After taking a few steps, the knife came flying at him again. Jacky wanted to move but Santiago immediately said, "Don't move."

Jacky immediately stopped. Then, another knife came flying at Santiago again. He quickly bent over and successfully dodged the knife.

After several failed attempts to hit Santiago, the man immediately took out five knives and shot them all at Santiago. Unluckily, one of the knives were coming towards Santiago's face.

Jacky broke out in cold sweat watching Santiago, but the latter merely caught with his teeth the spiral blade that was about to slash his face.

The other blades were deflected with the retractable stick he held in his hand.

The other person took a step back in shock and said, "That's impossible."

Santiago plucked the spiral blade from his mouth and tossed it to the ground. The man's eyes darted between the ground and Santiago.

"Nothing is impossible. Your biggest mistake was sparing my life. You should have ended me with a single stab the first time you met me."

"You were the one who bred calamity for the future, and now you're going to reap what you've sown."

"You're old and your mind isn't like what it used to be."

"In this world, there are a lot of strange and unique weapons, but they're bound to have their own weaknesses."

"Today, I'll show you what real skill is."

As Santiago spoke, he placed his hand behind his back, then suddenly whipped something out. With two loud bangs, the man opposite him staggered back and fell against the wall. He stiffened before slowly looking down at his chest, where he'd been shot.

He raised his hand to his bloody wound and looked back at Santiago, rasping out, "This is your so-called real skill?"

Santiago laughed in an exceptionally arrogant manner. "You're indeed a fool now that you're old. Hasn't anyone ever told you that all's fair in war?"

"Why would I be stupid enough to fight you knowing that I didn't stand a chance?"

"You can rest assured, though. Once you're dead, I'll find a way to track your family down and get rid of every single one of them."

"You... how can you be so vicious at such a young age?"

Santiago laughed like a madman. He walked over to the man and said, "Every man for himself, you know. This is your retribution. If you hadn't killed anyone, why would someone kill you?"

"Do you think... you'll end up with a... happy ending?"

“Stop wasting your breath b*tching around and just drop dead already.”

Santiago turned to leave, then turned back again and looked at the man. “Don’t worry about how I’m going to end up. At least I managed to kill you.”

“You...”

The man had a mouthful of blood. Santiago swiftly took a step back, not wanting to be sullied. He put his hands behind his back.

“After you die, I promise I won’t allow even a single bone on your body to be discovered.”

“You won’t have a good end.”

“I’ve never dreamed of going to heaven. Hell’s the place for me, so you don’t need to worry about me.”

“A devil like me can’t possibly go searching for God, can I?”

Santiago turned and strode towards Jacky. This was the first time Jacky had ever felt like Santiago’s aura was more oppressive than Jepherson’s.

Santiago had just come to stop in front of Jacky when the man behind him collapsed to the ground.

He turned to glance at the man and smiled briefly before leaving.

On the other side, Seibert was scared stiff. He had never expected Santiago to be such a terrifying person.

He recalled how Santiago had gone around causing trouble as a child and knew that he was not far from death.

Jacky looked at the dead man and walked over to give him a kick. After confirming that he was dead, he called someone in to take care of the aftermath.

After leaving the basement, Jacky saw Santiago smoking outside.

He asked, “You’re pretty ruthless for someone so young, huh?”

“I would’ve died a long time ago if not for my ruthlessness. He initially wanted to kill me, then changed his mind and decided to torture me when he saw the ferocity in my eyes. He wanted to see how long it’d take for me to beg him for mercy, yet he’s the one that’s dead now.”

“If I were to spare him this time, I’d be the dead one next time.”

Santiago stubbed out his cigarette and got into the car. “I’m going to go shower and repent. It’s my first time, after all.”

After that, he left. Jacky was left standing there, looking a little taken aback. He couldn’t help laughing as he watched the car speed off.

Each generation has a hero and talent of its own.

Jepherson would not be willing to wield to others either.

Raeleigh woke up to Jepherson answering his phone by the window.

He only ended the call when Raeleigh sat up in bed.

He joined her. "You awake?"

"Who were you talking to on the phone?"

It was only four o'clock in the morning.

"Santiago."

"At this hour? What for?"

"He said he killed someone."

Raeleigh was taken aback. After a while, she asked, "Are you joking?"

Jepherson was amused. "Do I look like I'm joking?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "I don't know."

Jepherson lay down. "I'm going to get some rest. Call me if there's anything, but don't wake me up for any phone calls. You can answer it."

"Then you're skipping breakfast?"

"Yeah."

He soon fell asleep. Seeing that it was still Tristany, Raeleigh lay down again but found that she could not fall asleep.

She continued to lie in bed till it was six o'clock, eventually getting up when she couldn't take it anymore. She couldn't help thinking about Santiago.

She headed downstairs and called Santiago. He answered the phone groggily.

"Your brother told me that you killed someone. Is that true?"

She was using the downstairs landline. Santiago cracked open an eye and gave it some thought. "In my dream, yeah. What's up?"

Raeleigh paused, then hung up abruptly, feeling exasperated.

Santiago put down the phone.

He turned and lay on his back.

Raeleigh headed back upstairs to the bedroom, wanting to throw a pillow at Jepherson. She stopped herself since he was still asleep.

As a result, she forgot all about this by the time Jepherson woke up.

After breakfast, Raeleigh and Jepherson headed to the company. Santiago went there as well.

They had to finetune their plan before the new year, and they didn't have much time left. However, they had to put everything aside for a meeting.

After the meeting, Raeleigh lay down on the sofa, feeling a little sleepy.

Santiago perused some documents while Jepherson rested his eyes while leaning back in a chair.

The office was exceptionally quiet. Only the sound of Raeleigh's breathing could be heard.

After a while, Santiago said, "Grandpa called yesterday. He wants us to go back for New Year's."

Jepherson slowly opened his eyes. "He called you out of the blue?"

"I guess he's holding a grudge. Grandma won't let it go so easily."

"What did you say when you answered the phone?"

"That I'm not going back."

"Hmm..."

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Chapter 1416

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"What did you say when you answered the phone?"

"That I'm not going back."

"Hmm..."

With her back towards them, Raeleigh opened her eyes. Was it another trap?

Chapter 1417

By the time Raeleigh woke up, Santiago had already made them a reservation for dinner.

Jepherson had already gotten dressed and was calling Xanthus, inviting him to dinner with them.

"Do we need a private room?" Santiago asked. Jepherson nodded and Santiago immediately booked one.

It was only five o'clock when they left the company. Raeleigh asked Jepherson whether it was mandatory to attend the annual ball.

"All employees need to attend. We'll be inviting some guests and even be giving out prizes."

Raeleigh sat down. "Will Lamarre be coming?"

Speaking of Lamarre, Santiago said, "Who knows? Even if he has the time, we might not even be able to send him the invitation."

"Why?" Raeleigh asked anxiously.

"We don't know the first thing about his location. How are we gonna send him an invitation?"

Raeleigh fell silent. If Lammare was not attending, she did not feel like going either.

"If he isn't coming, then I won't go either."

She hadn't contributed much, anyway, so what was the point of attending? Wasn't it possible for employees of other companies to not attend?

"Going AWOL is out of the question, unless you have a special reason." Jepherson had not expected Raeleigh to act this way. It looked like he'd been looking forward to the annual ball for nothing.

"I haven't been feeling well recently, and I don't think I'll have the energy to attend. I'm just an intern, anyway, and a student to boot. I don't think it's appropriate for me to attend."

Raeleigh looked out the window. It was wintertime, and the sky had already turned dark. She felt a little lost as she watched the lights.

Her mentor had left without saying a word, and he hadn't even given her a call after such a long time. She wouldn't even know if anything were to happen to him.

"Don't you guys have any way to contact him?" Raeleigh placed her hopes on Jepherson.

Jepherson looked at Santiago. "Do you?"

"Nope."

Santiago's answer was short and sweet. Raeleigh hadn't expected much, but she was still reluctant to attend the annual ball.

It was only three days away. Jepherson had planned on going home after the annual ball, but Raeleigh's refusal to attend threw a wrench in his plans.

Raeleigh stuck to her words. She didn't even accept the gown that Jepherson had prepared for her.

On the day of the annual ball, Raeleigh visited an old folks' home with Xanthus.

Jepherson called Raeleigh's phone, but no one answered.

He only managed to get in touch with her when he called Xanthus.

"He's looking for you."

Xanthus his phone away and reminded Raeleigh. She was filing an elder's nails, and she said, "I haven't told him that I'm leaving tonight."

"You shouldn't leave without saying a word if you can't let him go."

Despite Xanthus's words, Raeleigh still stood up and told the elder that she had to catch a flight. They left the old folks' home.

She told Xanthus, "I don't want Mom and Dad to worry. Anyway, we promised them we were going back for New Year's."

Raeleigh's things were all packed up. There was nothing much to pack, anyway. She could leave at a moment's notice.

At the airport, Raeleigh received a phone call from Jepherson.

"Where are you?"

Jepherson had just gotten into the car after leaving the annual ball.

Raeleigh's gaze swept over the crowded airport. "I'm at the airport."

Jepherson sat up straight. "Why are you there?"

"I have something to do."

"What about me?"

Raeleigh didn't answer immediately.

"You should go home."

She hung up and boarded with Xanthus.

Jepherson looked at his driver. "Book me a flight!"

When Raeleigh got home, she saw Lamar and Jazelle waiting for her at the door.

"Gosh, what are you two doing out here? It's so cold."

"Baby, I'm sorry to have wronged you. I've been feeling uncomfortable since we missed meeting the Harveyes."

Jazelle held Raeleigh's hand. She only had one daughter, and she wanted to give her the best of everything. However, what could she do when the Harveyes had crossed the line?

She could only watch as her daughter resigned to her own fate.

"Mom, it's not your fault. Things only turned out this way because I didn't discuss it with you guys beforehand."

In truth, Raeleigh felt very guilty as well. Jazelle pulled her into the house, chatting along the way. Xanthus only asked Lamar about everything that had happened when they were inside.

"All the evidence I have proves that the Harvey family really had something to do with that batch of antiques, and they were personally handled by Hudson and his wife. We still haven't found out where the antiques went after that, but there's definite evidence linking them to Raeleigh's kidnapping."

"That's why this whole thing is making your mother and I extremely cautious."

“If that’s the truth, there’s no way your sister can marry Jepherson, let alone date him.”

“I won’t allow my son-in-law to be someone who has harmed my daughter.”

As Lamar spoke, Raeleigh gazed at him, her hand still in Jazelle’s.

“Dad...”

Raeleigh did not know what to say.

Was she going to try to let Jepherson off the hook?

Even if he was still a child at the time, he was still a part of the Harvey family.

Although it wouldn’t be fair to push the blame on him, he still had to take responsibility on behalf of his family.

Raeleigh opened her mouth but kept silent.

“Raeleigh, I won’t hurt you in this matter.”

Lamar looked at Raeleigh. She could only say, “I’ll listen to you, Dad.”

“I know you’re a good girl. Let’s talk about all of this after New Year’s. This is the first time we’re celebrating as a complete family, so we have to enjoy it to the fullest. After the holidays, you’re going to be twenty, Raeleigh.”

...

Raeleigh couldn’t eat or sleep well for the first two days. On the second day, Jepherson came to visit. However, he wasn’t invited in, so he could only wait outside.

It was freezing cold, and there was no way he could stay in the car the whole time. All he could do was come twice a day and wait for a couple of hours each time.

He tried to call Raeleigh several times, but she didn’t answer any of them.

He had also sent her a few texts, but never received a reply.

Raeleigh managed to see Jepherson’s car once from the manor’s lighthouse. The manor was so huge that it was impossible for her to see him without any help.

She finally thought of a place to go – the manor’s lighthouse.

She stood there with a pair of binoculars, barely managing to make him out in the car.

“Raeleigh.”

Hearing the footsteps, she turned and saw Xanthus walk in. She put down the binoculars and turned to look at him. “I miss him. I miss him so much that it feels like I’m going to lose my mind.”

“It just goes to show that you do love him.”

Xanthus walked up to her. “I’m so sorry that I didn’t manage to find you before this, that I didn’t manage to keep you from harm.”

Raeleigh shook her head. "You're not the one at fault. Neither am I, and neither is Jepherson. It's the fault in our stars!"

Chapter 1418

Raeleigh fell ill three days before New Year's. She lay in bed, looking like she was just sleeping. Novalie was a little anxious as she sat and watched her.

She said, "I've spent the last ten years with Raeleigh, and the only time that she's been like this was when I saved her from the fire. It's never happened again."

"I know that you're her biological parents and you're doing this for her good, but Raeleigh's only human. I'm sorry for this, but if something were to happen to her, I won't have any reason to live either."

"The Harvey family may be a lion's den, but what does that have to do with Raeleigh and Jepherson?"

She looked at Lamar and Jazelle. Jazelle said tearfully, "Mom, it's not that we're against them being together. We're just worried. They can come after us, but we don't want anything to happen to Raeleigh."

She didn't want to do this either. As she sobbed, Novalie sighed. "Even if he's here to harm us or Raeleigh, let's just allow him to see her since she's sick now. We can talk about other things later."

At Novalie's words, Jazelle turned to look at Lamar. She only had one daughter, and she didn't want to lose her over this.

Lamar nodded. He had no choice but to let Jepherson in.

As he entered, Jepherson was still asking Xanthus, "Where's Raeleigh? I haven't seen her leave the house at all these few days."

Xanthus's head was slightly bowed as he answered, "She's sick."

Jepherson stopped and stared at Xanthus. "What's wrong?"

Xanthus glanced at him. "She's sick. What do you mean what's wrong?"

"What kind of illness?"

"You'll find out soon."

It was too late to say anything at this point, so Xanthus led Jepherson straight to Raeleigh's room.

When Jepherson stepped into the room, his eyes went straight to Raeleigh. He paused, then strode over to the bed and held her cold hand.

"Raeleigh..."

He called her name a few times, his voice gentle and low. Raeleigh merely frowned, thinking that she was dreaming. She didn't open her eyes.

Seeing that it was working, Jepherson leaned in and pressed his lips to hers. Jazelle and Novalie averted their gazes when they saw this.

As her father, Lamar had disapproval written all over his face.

However, Lamar did not stop Jepherson. He was a compassionate man, so he could understand this.

Only a person who was deeply in love would be able to understand.

Lamar turned to face the window, pain and hatred in his eyes.

If not for his daughter's kidnapping, his wife wouldn't have lost her mind for so many years. He hadn't had time to care for his son, and his daughter had had to suffer on her own for so long.

The fire that had taken so many lives and caused his daughter to suffer so many hardships was not a coincidence.

How could he allow the people behind it to roam free?

Raeleigh slowly opened her eyes. As she gazed at Jepherson, she dazedly raised a hand to touch his face. "You..."

"I'm real, not a dream."

Jepherson deepened the kiss to the point that Raeleigh felt like she was going to suffocate. She widened her eyes, suddenly realising that there were people around them. She quickly tried to push him away.

However, he held her hand, stopping her. She couldn't break free of him and glared at him, her face flushed as she tried to catch her breath.

Jepherson planted a kiss on her forehead before moving away and looking at the people around them. "Let's give her an IV drip."

Xanthus had already gotten everything ready and quickly handled it. Raeleigh lay in bed, watching Jepherson. She felt absolutely embarrassed.

Jepherson held Raeleigh's hand as he unbuttoned his coat, but he didn't take it off. It was the only way that he could continue to hold her hand.

He'd had enough of their brief separation, and he couldn't take anymore.

It did not matter if it was a second or a minute.

"Grandma."

It was only at this point that Jepherson saw and greeted Novalie. She got up. "I'm exhausted. I'm going to go get some rest."

Novalie returned to her room. Jazelle stood up and walked towards Lamar, whose back was still facing them. She tugged on his hand. "Lamar, let's go."

Lamar turned and glanced at Jepherson. "Get your hands off her."

This was the angry voice of a father.

Raeleigh immediately wanted to pull her hand away. Jepherson let her, but his gaze remained firm. It was as if he was saying that he would never give up.

Lamar turned to look at Raeleigh, his gaze warming. "You get some rest, alright? Your mother and I are tired too."

He headed towards the door with Jazelle's hand in his, and Xanthus followed them.

Once the door was closed, Jepherson said, "Your parents have a great relationship."

"That's right."

Raeleigh felt like the sky was about to crash on them, but she couldn't help bursting into laughter at Jepherson's comment. How could he still be in the mood to compliment her parents' relationship?

"My father likes to hold my mother's hand as well, as does Mr. Atkinson. However, most of the other men I've seen barely even look at their middle-aged wives, let alone touch them."

"It's not immoral for a man to smile at someone else's wife or like to look at young women, but it's a form of disrespect and humiliation to his own wife. He may not realise it, but it's a sign that he's slowly forgetting about her."

"Every woman craves for her husband's love, even if it's just a hug."

"However, there are plenty of people out there who lose that as they grow older."

Jepherson spoke solemnly. Raeleigh watched him with a slight frown. "Have you always observed other couples like this?"

"I've seen too much."

It had been a long time since Jepherson had had a good night's sleep. He took his coat off and slipped under the covers, wrapping his arms around Raeleigh. "Do you want to hear more?"

She glanced at him. "Yes."

"I remember when I was ten, we used to have an old driver who would drive me to and fro. His wife was beautiful, and he was a considerate man. I used to hear the maids talk about how envious their relationship was, almost like a fairy tale."

"Everyone thought that they would be together forever."

"One day, his wife left him for another man."

"Many people didn't understand why, but they later found out that it was because the driver gradually stopped caring about his wife."

"No one knew what he was thinking, but someone heard what his wife had said before she left."

"She said they had been estranged from each other for more than two years. They hadn't been intimate with each other, nor had they talked. They hadn't even slept in the same bed."

"She could not bear it anymore, so she chose to leave."

"Even if love no longer exists, one would still crave physical intimacy."

Jepherson gradually fell asleep. Raeleigh turned to look at him. Were all these things that he'd said true? What was he trying to express?

Regardless, she felt that he was truly exhausted. Otherwise, he wouldn't have fallen asleep mid-conversation!

Chapter 1419

Raeleigh struggled to turn around. She gazed at Jepherson's handsome face. He was only in his twenties, yet he was already an outstanding man. Wouldn't he be absolutely remarkable by the time he was middle-aged?

She fixed her eyes on him and sighed. Perhaps they had been enemies in a past life, which was why they were in this situation in this life. Nothing had been in their favour from the day they'd met.

She lay back down after watching him for some time. She couldn't stand their current situation, but there was nothing she could do about it.

When Jepherson woke up, he saw that Raeleigh had fallen asleep, curled up in his arms like a kitten.

He subconsciously glanced at her hand and found that the IV had been removed, then trailed upwards and met Xanthus's eyes. He was sitting across from them. Jepherson sat up.

As he tidied Raeleigh's clothes, he asked, "I didn't know you had the habit of watching others sleep."

"I don't when it comes to other people, but I do have a habit of watching my sister."

Xanthus stood up and turned to leave, taking the IV drip with him.

After a while, Jepherson got out of bed and took a shower. He put on a bathrobe and called Xanthus on the phone, saying, "Bring me some clothes that you've never worn."

After that, he hung up, leaving Xanthus feeling both amused and annoyed.

Xanthus grabbed some clothes and brought them to Raeleigh's room. He knocked on the door.

"It's not locked."

Jepherson changed into the clothes Xanthus had brought. They had similar builds, and he looked good even in loungewear.

After that, he headed straight to the kitchen. He didn't react much at Lamar and Jazelle's presence, merely greeting them politely, saying, "I'm going to make something for Raeleigh."

Jazelle glanced at Lamar, a little bemused. However, Jepherson walked into the kitchen before she could say anything, as casually as if he were in his own home. He cooked something for Raeleigh, bringing it up to her room and waking her up.

Raeleigh did not know whether to laugh or cry. "There's no need for this."

She didn't want him to serve her like a servant.

"You don't expect me to just sit around and watch you while you're sick, do you?"

“It’s really unnecessary, though. There are plenty of people to cook for me.”

“Mine is the best, though. Isn’t it?”

Raeleigh was speechless. She’d never met such an arrogant person.

She sat in bed and looked outside the window for a while. It was snowing.

She said, “I heard from Dad that your grandparents are behind this. If it’s really them, what’s going to happen to us?”

“I’ll get to the bottom of this. Grandma’s a little on the extreme side, but as far as I know, she’s not the type who’d commit arson.”

“There must be some reason for this.”

In face, Jepherson had already started investigating the matter. He had yet to find anything, though.

She looked at him. “I really hope it’s just a dream.”

“If you were to disappear when the dream’s over, then I’d rather this be real.”

Jepherson took a sip of the lukewarm soup before cleaning up the cutlery. Jazelle, who’d been standing by the door, turned and headed downstairs.

Jepherson went downstairs and washed up before looking for Lamar.

“I have something to say.”

Lamar sat on the leather sofa, frowning at Jepherson. He’d seen Jepherson’s father in a photo before, but he had to admit that Jepherson had surpassed him.

It was obvious.

If it weren’t for the fact that he was from the Harvey family, Lamar would’ve been overjoyed by his actions.

It was a pity that things didn’t always go according to plan.

There were countless possibilities, but neither one could change the fact that the Harvey family had done something wrong.

As a father, he could not tolerate losing his daughter, and he would not allow it to happen twice.

Everyone knew that if the cat was out of the bag, Raeleigh would be a moving target. The Harvey family would never let her go.

Otherwise, that fire wouldn’t have happened. Lamar couldn’t think of any other reason for it, aside from wanting to ensure that Raeleigh would die with the truth.

Couldn’t Jepherson see it?

Their separation was the only way to protect Raeleigh.

“Sit down, and let’s talk.”

Lamar decided not to be too unceremonious.

“Thank you.”

Jepherson sat down. Jazelle gestured to the maids for tea to be served.

Jepherson said, “Raeleigh and I have had our fair share of unhappiness and mistakes, and it’s miraculous that we managed to get this far.”

“Please give me some time to take care of my family’s matters. I’ll ensure that Raeleigh has a stable, safe life.”

“I’m really worried about her current situation. She rarely tells me things that we have a tacit understanding about.”

“No matter what the reason is, I will not give up.”

Jazelle held Lamar’s hand and looked at him.

Lamar said, “You can stay with Raeleigh for the time being. We’ll talk about this once we know the truth.”

“I can tell you for sure that your grandparents were involved in this matter. I can’t be sure that they’re the masterminds, but it’s what I believe to be true.”

“I can give up on getting revenge since Raeleigh’s back. It’s not going to change anything, anyway.”

“However...”

“You’re a smart man. You should know that that fire was not a coincidence. Someone was trying to keep things under wraps.”

“Perhaps they thought that things would end with Raeleigh’s death.”

“Unfortunately for them, God kept her alive and even allowed me to find her.”

“The problem is that Raeleigh might get hurt again if we really were to find something out.”

“You should know that as a father, all I want for my daughter is for her to be safe, happy, and healthy.”

The room fell into silence.

Jepherson frowned. “Do you mean to say that even if the Harvey family isn’t involved in this, you won’t allow me to be with Raeleigh?”

Lamar merely smiled. “As I said, you’re a smart man. No daughter of the Osteen family will marry someone from the Harvey family, so you should only blame yourself for having been born into the wrong family.”

Jepherson gazed at Lamar for a long time, not saying a word.

Eventually, he said, “Whatever your decision is, I won’t marry anyone else aside from Raeleigh.”

Chapter 1420

Jepherson got up to head upstairs, but stopped at the foot of the stairs and turned back to look at Lamar and Jazelle. "I'll be staying here until New Year's Day. After that, I'll leave and go find out the truth before returning to pick Raeleigh up."

Then, he headed upstairs, his face cold.

If he could fall out with his own family, he could fall out with Raeleigh's. Nobody would be able to stop him.

Raeleigh was resting when she heard someone open the door. She knew it was Jepherson and opened her eyes to look at him.

She was a little bemused at his grave expression. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing." He walked over to her and took her hand, rubbing it with his hands.

She knew that something must have happened, but it was impossible to make him tell her.

After thinking for some time, she figured it out.

"Did my father say that he won't allow us to get married even if the Harvey family isn't behind my kidnapping?"

Jepherson did not answer, but Raeleigh could tell from his expression that she'd guessed correctly.

She was silent for a while. "If so, we..."

"Never!"

He immediately cut her off, glaring at her. She swallowed the rest of her sentence.

Amused, she said, "I still haven't figured out what love really is, but you already have me wrapped around your finger."

"Maybe it's just me, but the harder things get, the less I want to give up. It's like how I refused to let you go when I knew you were sick, but I regretted it when you recovered. I felt like I'd been tricked."

She fell silent, which put Jepherson in a great mood. He pinched her face. "I love you like this. You're destined to be with me."

"Oh, please. How narcissistic can you be?"

Raeleigh harrumphed conceitedly.

He lay down next to her, holding her hand in his and closing his eyes. "Everything's happened so suddenly. I've been trying to find a way out of this, but nothing's working."

"Raeleigh, give me some time to find out the truth."

"Your parents are right. You're the one who's in the most danger now, so this can't go on for long."

Raeleigh didn't respond. Jepherson soon fell asleep, which made her worry. He was so exhausted that he could fall asleep even without eating. It was similar to when he'd gotten sick.

She wanted to wake him up, but she couldn't bear to. At the same time, allowing him to continue sleeping was just making her worry.

She couldn't help feeling amused at how weird humans were. They desperately wanted to get their hands on things that they couldn't have, yet when those things were easily within reach, they would throw them aside.

Jepherson didn't go home to celebrate New Year's with his family. On New Year's Eve, Raeleigh watched as he called his relatives, feeling a little uncomfortable.

This was probably his first time spending New Year's away from his family.

She'd just turned to leave when Jepherson called out to her. She turned back, and he took a photo of her for Belle.

"Come here."

He was calling her over like she was his lackey, but her body reacted before her mind could.

He held her in his arms before turning on the camera.

Raeleigh blushed a little. She'd thought that it was just Belle, but Calvin was there as well.

"Raeleigh, I've prepared some gifts for you. When are you coming?"

Belle looked radiant in her outfit, just like a young woman.

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "Maybe in two weeks?"

"I'll be waiting, then."

"I'm hanging up."

"Okay."

Belle was outside, looking a little cold. They were going to catch some fireworks, so they didn't have much time to chat either.

After hanging up, Belle called Santiago.

Santiago was spending the holidays at Zorion's house with both Zorion and Jacky.

They were doing some baking, but Jacky's was turning out the best. Zorion and Santiago immediately went on strike.

...

Santiago left to answer the call, leaving Zorion and Jacky alone. They didn't speak at first, but Santiago was away for so long that they couldn't help breaking the silence.

"Was it worth it, leaving your cushy life in Waverly Village for this?"

Zorion was young, but he'd been through a lot. He sounded mature and wise when he spoke.

Jacky was the same.

“What matters is whether you have the guts to, not whether it’s worth it. I wouldn’t be able to hold the fort down if I were truly useless. I want Deanna, and if the Atkinson family doesn’t give her to me, I won’t leave.”

“Threats are of no use to the Atkinson family. You should know that.”

Zorion was decorating his pastries, which were turning out to look really ugly. Jacky couldn’t stand the sight of them and threw them away.

Zorion’s brows were tightly furrowed, but he didn’t say anything.

Jacky put his pastries down and looked up at Zorion. “My love for Deanna is bone-deep, and I won’t leave without the Atkinson family’s blessing.”

“You used to love someone too. You should know how serious I am.”

“Once I marry her, I’ll leave all my riches behind and return to Waverly Village. She’s all that I need.”

“If I can’t marry her, I’ll spend the rest of my life trying.”

Zorion chuckled.

However, it didn’t reach his eyes. “Getting rid of one person is nothing to the Atkinson family. Your feelings and riches mean nothing to us.”

“And my business is my business. Don’t ever bring it up in front of me again.”

Jacky lowered his head and continued fussing with his pastries. The maids stood around awkwardly, not understanding what they were talking about. It looked like Jacky had confessed to the wrong person.

Santiago had told them to treat him as part of the family, but Zorion was so adamantly against it that they didn’t dare to be too obvious about it.

Jacky received a call as they baked. He wiped his hands before answering the phone.

After answering the phone, he glanced at Zorion. It was obvious that something was amiss.

“What’s wrong?” Zorion’s voice was frosty, but he was being as polite as he could to someone who’d gotten his younger sister pregnant.

It didn’t bother Jacky, but he still hesitated before hanging up.

“My people abducted a high-ranking official’s daughter. They failed.”

“What does this have to do with me? Why are you looking at me?” Zorion’s temper inexplicably rose. Jacky turned around and glanced outside the villa.

“You owe me a favor.”

Jacky unlocked his phone and showed Zorion a photo.

When he saw the person in the photo, his face turned pale. “B*stards.”

Jacky took his phone back and made a call. "Take her to Waverly Village. Nobody is allowed to go near her without my order."

After hanging up, he looked at Zorion. "One hundred million."

"Do you think I'll give it to you?"

"A buddy of mine likes her too."

...

"How interesting." Santiago walked in and washed his hands before watching the two men negotiate.

He added, "I heard that it's really cold in Waverly Village now. Without firewood and coal, a normal person won't make it through the night. I wonder whether one hundred million is enough?"

He'd barely managed to finish his sentence before Zorion had hurried off.